

A NEW CYPRAEA FROM EASTER ISLAND

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CYPRAEA ENGLERTI, *new species*.

Plate 4, figs. I-L.

Two specimens of a distinctive cowrie were collected by Father Sebastian Englert on Easter Island and kindly forwarded to the senior author. These two apparently live-collected, perfect adult specimens seem adequate to establish a new species without question. It is a privilege to honor that devoted and self-sacrificing padre by giving his name to an endemic mollusk from his beloved island; *Cypraea englerti*, new species. The holotype, (Plate figs. I-L), has been deposited in the Bernice P. Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii (number B.B.M. 8909). The holotype measures (in millimeters) 22.8 in length, 17.0 in width, and 12.8 in height.

The shell of the holotype is solid, ovate and slightly pointed anteriorly where there are 5 right and 2 left lateral pits. The spire is slightly elevated and is covered with rust-colored nacre. There is a discrete white deposit of callus to the right of the spire. The dorsum is inflated and smooth with a prominent dorsal line.

The dorsal color is a homogeneous dark chocolate-brown, marked with discrete, circular, variable-sized, pure-white spots, (1.0 to 0.2 mm.), which are evenly distributed. The spots are rendered golden brown on the margins by an overlay above and obscured completely by a brownish-tan callus at the margins, both of which are prominent and sharp. This "café-au-lait" color extends across the base, becoming markedly darker in the mid-portion of the columellar base and then fading again to tan at the aperture. The aperture is cream, changing to pure-white in the fossula and columellar sulcus.

The fossula is deeply curved, well developed, and extends well into the interior of the shell. There are 5 strong white inner denticles, confined to the fossula. The heavy tan terminal ridge continues as the prominent anterior edge of the fossula. The columellar sulcus is smooth. The teeth are strong and deep, but only slightly produced. There are 17 labial teeth and 2 posterior crenulations within the posterior canal. There are 16 columellar teeth of similar size and appearance. The base is strongly convex and the aperture is curved slightly to the animal's left posteriorly.

The anterior and posterior canals are stained cafe-au-lait.

The paratype is the same in general appearance as the holotype, except that it is slightly less mature and the calloused margins are not quite so prominent. Labial teeth number 16 with 2 posterior crenulations within the canal. There are 15 columellar teeth. The first 4 have definite ribs extending a short distance into the fossula. There are 5 well developed inner denticles confined to the fossula, as in the holotype. The paratype measures (in millimeters) 24.3 in length, 16.9 in width, and 13.3 in height. The paratype is in the collection of the senior author.

This species is superficially similar to, but can be differentiated from, *Cypraea caputserpentis* Linn., 1758 and *Cypraea caputdraconis* Melvill, 1888. *Cypraea engleri* resembles these latter two species from a dorsal view, but can be separated at once by the presence of a strongly developed fossula. The aperture in *Cypraea engleri* is narrow and does not flare widely anteriorly as in *Cypraea caputdraconis*. Another distinguishing feature is the markedly convex base, which is in contrast to the concave or flat base of *Cypraea caputdraconis*. The teeth of *Cypraea engleri* are about the same width as the white to cream interstices. In *Cypraea caputdraconis* the interstices are much wider and furthermore are stained dark-brown to black. The soft parts are unknown. This is probably a shallow-water species collected on the reef.

Type locality: This species is known only from Easter Island, eastern Polynesia.

CORRECTIONS OF SPHAERIID NOMENCLATURE

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In these notes I wish to alter somewhat the nomenclature used in my monograph (Herrington, 1962).

A number of leading students of the Sphaeriidae continue to use the subgenus *Musculium* for the group containing *Sphaerium lacustre* (Müller), *S. partumeium* (Say), *S. securis* Prime, and *S. transversum* (Say). I consider this reasonable, and am now in the process of gathering the information necessary to provide equal status for other groups within the genus *Sphaerium*. See my monograph, pp. 7-9.